

Battaglia, Frank

From: Wenley Ferguson <wferguson@savebay.org>
Sent: Friday, July 08, 2016 12:15 PM
To: Battaglia, Frank
Subject: Save The Bay's comments on the
Attachments: Ciba Geigy comment letter 7.16.pdf

Categories: Red Category

Frank,

Please find attached Save The Bay's comments on the proposed remedial alternatives submitted to the EPA's RCRA Corrective Action Program for the former Ciba-Geigy Facility Site.

Thank you for granting our extension request and for coordinating the public meeting in coordination with Steve Stycos.

Sincerely,
Wenley Ferguson





July 8, 2016

Mr. Frank Battaglia
USEPA Region
15 Post Office Square
Suite 100, OSRR07-3
Boston, MA 02109

Dear Mr. Battaglia,

Thank you for granting the request for extension to review the Statement of Basis for the proposed Remedy Determination for the former Ciba-Geigy site, owned by BASF in Cranston, RI. Save The Bay would like to provide the following comments on the proposed remedial alternatives submitted to the EPA's RCRA Corrective Action Program for the former Ciba-Geigy Facility Site.

Save The Bay supports the removal of contaminated soil and capping the former production area with two feet of clean material to allow for public use. Overall, Save The Bay supports the selected remedy but submits that the following issues must be addressed.

1. **Escrow Fund, Monitoring and Reporting.** The document states that a long-term maintenance and reporting plan will be implemented but does not specify how the site will be monitored post floods. Since the cap and proposed groundwater treatment system is within the flood plain and much of the site is directly adjacent to the river, the monitoring and maintenance plan should specify the requirements that must be addressed to adequately assess the cap and the groundwater treatment system after flooding events. The EPA should also require the establishment of an escrow account to ensure that funding is available for both maintenance and monitoring of the remedial actions to ensure they remain protective of both human health and the Pawtuxet River and its flood plain in perpetuity.
2. **Public Access and Cap Stabilization.** The Pawtuxet River has been the site of multiple habitat and water quality restoration activities over the past three decades including the Pawtuxet dam removal, the lower Pawtuxet and Pocasset confluence flood plain restoration projects, and enhanced wastewater treatment. The significant local, state and federal investment in advanced wastewater treatment has resulted in water quality that can support anadromous fish and a diversity of aquatic life. The river's enhanced water quality has also increased the public's use of the river for paddling and as an outdoor classroom for local schools. The proposed Remedy Determination's plans to cap the site and restore native plants to this flood plain area will enhance the public's use and access to the Pawtuxet River.

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However, all efforts to restore as much of the natural riverine buffer as possible to stabilize the cap during flood events and during severe rain events must be exhausted and implemented. Specifically, since excavation is required along the sheet pile wall to cap the site, Save The Bay submits that the river bank be graded to create a more natural slope that could be planted with trees to help stabilize the cap. Additionally, Save The Bay recommends that the pilings and other manmade structures in the river be removed to improve public access for river users and prevent snags from developing during flood periods.

Once the Statement of Basis is finalized, Save The Bay recommends that the EPA and BASF convene a meeting with local and state partners including the Pawtuxet River Authority, Friends of the Pawtuxet and the City of Cranston to review the habitat restoration plan and public access for the capped site. Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed Statement of Basis for Remedy Determination.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Wenley Ferguson".

Wenley Ferguson
Restoration Coordinator

Cc: Steve Stycos, City Council
Douglas Doe, Cranston Conservation Commission
Bob Nero, Pawtuxet River Authority